Customer No.: 31561
Application No.: 10/707,141
Docket No.: 9097-US-PA-1

AMENDMENTS

In The Claims:

Claims 1-6 (canceled)
Claim 7 (currently amended). An ink storage unit, comprising:

an ink tank, defining an inner confinement space limited by at least an inner sidewall, and further provided with an air inlet and an ink outlet, the air inlet enabling an external air to enter the confinement space and the ink outlet enabling an ink to be outputted out of the confinement space; and

an ink storage body, received within the confinement space, the ink storage body being comprised of:

a first ink storage portion, placed approximately close to the air inlet;

a second ink storage portion, placed approximately close to the ink outlet; and

a spacing member, placed between the first and second ink storage portions and comprised of a plurality of ribs that oppositely abut the first and second ink storage portions to separate the first ink storage portion from the second ink storage portion.

Claim 8. (original) The ink storage unit of claim 7, wherein the air inlet is substantially spaced away from the ink outlet.

Claim 9. (canceled)

Claim 10. (original) The ink storage unit of claim 7, wherein the first ink storage portion has a capillary effect that is higher than that of the second ink storage portion.

Claim 11. (original) The ink storage unit of claim 7, wherein a pore density of the first ink storage portion is higher than that of the second ink storage portion.

Claim 12. (original) The ink storage unit of claim 7, wherein the first ink storage portion is made of a porous material.

Claim 13. (original) The ink storage unit of claim 12, wherein the porous material includes a sponge.

Claim 14. (original) The ink storage unit of claim 12, wherein the porous material includes a fabric.

Claim 15. (original) The ink storage unit of claim 7, wherein the second ink storage portion is made of a porous material.

Claim 16. (original) The ink storage unit of claim 15, wherein the porous material includes a sponge.

Claim 17. (original) The ink storage unit of claim 15, wherein the porous material includes a fabric.

Claim 18 (new). An ink storage unit, comprising:

an ink tank, defining an inner confinement space limited by at least an inner sidewall, and further provided with an air inlet and an ink outlet, the air inlet enabling an external air to enter the confinement space and the ink outlet enabling an ink to be outputted out of the confinement space; and

an ink storage body, received within the confinement space, the ink storage body being comprised of:

a first ink storage portion, made of porous material and placed approximately close to the air inlet;

a second ink storage portion, made of porous material and placed approximately close to the ink outlet; and

a spacing member, placed between the first and second ink storage portions to separate the first ink storage portion from the second ink storage portion such that the first ink storage portion does not physically contact the second ink storage portion.

Claim 19. (new) The ink storage unit of claim 18, wherein the air inlet is substantially spaced away from the ink outlet.

Claim 20. (new) The ink storage unit of claim 18, wherein the first ink storage portion has a capillary effect that is higher than that of the second ink storage portion.

Claim 21. (new) The ink storage unit of claim 18, wherein a pore density of the first ink storage portion is higher than that of the second ink storage portion.

Claim 22. (new) The ink storage unit of claim 18, wherein the first ink storage portion is made of sponge.

Claim 23. (new) The ink storage unit of claim 18, wherein the first ink storage portion is made of fabric.

Claim 24. (new) The ink storage unit of claim 18, wherein the second ink storage portion is made of sponge.

Claim 25. (new) The ink storage unit of claim 18, wherein the second ink storage portion is made of fabric.